

REMARKS

Claim 9 has been canceled. Claims 1-8 and 10-13 are pending in the case. Further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 and 10-13 were allowed.

Section 103(a) Rejections

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,420,864 to Abraham et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,957 to Rosengaus et al. For at least the reasons stated in the Amendments; Responses previously filed in the present case by Applicants, claim 9 is believed to be patentably distinct over the cited art. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution, claim 9 has been canceled, without disclaimer or prejudice as to the subject matter contained therein, thereby rendering the § 103 rejection of claim 9 moot.

CONCLUSION

This response constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the Office Action mailed August 14, 2006. In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants submit that pending claims 1-8 and 10-13 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned earnestly requests a telephone conference.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 02-0393.

Respectfully submitted,

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